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# GOLF

PRIMER ON FAMILIAR RULES

“LEST WE FORGET”

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The lack of knowledge of the Rules of Golf among players has become notorious, and there are many who, while quite ignorant of a majority of the rules, do not hesitate to enter for Tournament play. These players turn in scores in accordance with which they are awarded prizes, but it may safely be said that if their method of play was analyzed it would probably show that during the round they had, *because of their ignorance of the rules*, failed to add several penalty strokes to their score or had, perhaps, for the same reason disqualified themselves.

A player should not only familiarize himself with the rules and follow them strictly, but should also take cognizance of the breach of any rule by his partner or by any other player entered in a tournament, and, with this idea in view, some of the more important rules as to penalties, etc., in both Medal Play and Match Play, have been selected and summarized herein (pp. 6 to 20) for the information of those who are not familiar with them.

**A PLAYER WHO IS IGNORANT OF THE RULES GOVERNING THE PLAY SHOULD NOT ENTER A TOURNAMENT.**

The following are the breaches of the Rules of Golf in Medal Play most frequently noticed and, through ignorance or otherwise, many players fail to add the penalty strokes to their score:

1. Player, when dropping ball, instead of *facing the hole, standing erect* and dropping it *over his shoulder* faces sideways or backwards, stoops or crouches and drops the ball over his arm in an endeavor to obtain as good a "lie" as possible.

2. Player asks for or willingly receives *advice* from a competitor, or from someone other than his own caddie, as to the club which he should use for making a certain stroke, or as to how the stroke should be made.

3. Player grounds his club in *bunkers* or *roads*.

4. Player moves a stone, twig, leaf or something in a hazard, *so as to improve the lie of his ball*.

5. Player scrapes aside with his club *leaves*, twigs or other loose impediments instead of lifting them by *hand*.

6. Player, in order that competitor's ball may not strike his ball on the putting green, lifts his ball *while that of the competitor is in motion* instead of *before* his competitor putts.

7. Player when addressing ball in play *presses* his club on the ground instead of grounding it lightly with not more than its own weight on the ground.

8. Player touches or moves *bushes, weeds, long grass, etc.*, more than is necessary to *find* the ball.

9. Player *bends* or *pushes aside* or *breaks off* bushes, twigs, branches, weeds, etc., which interfere with his stance or with the lie of his ball.

10. Player tees and drives his ball from *outside the limits* of the teeing ground.

11. Player removes a loose impediment lying *more than a club length* from his ball. (This is only permissible on the putting green).

12. Player presses down with his club, or otherwise, irregular surfaces *so as to improve the lie of his ball*.

13. Player presses down grass or ground at or near the edge of the hole to make a smoother surface for putting.

14. Player removes mud or other substance from his ball, particularly on putting green.



# SOME PENALTIES, ETC., IN MEDAL PLAY AND IN MATCH PLAY.

(NOTE.—For other penalties, etc. (there are many), see Rules of the United States Golf Association.)  
PENALTY, ETC.

TEEING GROUND	Medal Play	Match Play
(NOTE.—The "teeing-ground" is a rectangular space of the depth of two club lengths directly behind the line indicated by the two marks.)		
If first stroke be played <i>from outside limits</i> of,	First stroke must be counted and second stroke must be played from within limits.	Ball may be at once recalled by opponent and may then be re-teeed without penalty.
If ball be played <i>out of bounds</i> from,	The stroke must be counted and another ball may be teed for next stroke.	Same as in Medal Play.
If ball played from, be <i>lost through the green</i> (except in water, casual water, or out of bounds.)	One Stroke and Distance. Another ball must be teed as nearly as possible at spot from which lost ball was struck.	Loss of hole.

# PENALTY, ETC.

## HAZARD

(NOTE.—A "hazard" is any bunker, water, (except casual water), ditch, (unless excepted by local rule), bush, sand, path or road.)

If club be *grounded* in,

If *loose impediment* in, be removed,

If, when playing ball in, it strike or be stopped by the player, his clubs, or his caddie,

If ball in, *move* after player has taken his stance to play it,

If, in the act of dropping a ball through the green, ball roll into,

If ball lie in or be lost in *casual water* in, and a ball is dropped either behind the hazard or in the hazard,

## Medal Play

Two strokes.

Two strokes.

One stroke.

One stroke.

Ball may be re-dropped without penalty.

One stroke.

## Match Play

Loss of hole.

Loss of hole.

Loss of hole.

One stroke.

Same as in Medal Play.

One stroke.

# PENALTY, ETC.

## CASUAL WATER

(NOTE.—“Casual water” is any temporary accumulation of water (whether caused by rainfall, flooding, or otherwise) which is not one of the ordinary and recognized hazards of the course and which interferes with the lie of the ball or the stance of the player.)

If ball lie in, or be lost in, in a hazard. (See Hazard.)

If ball lie in, or be lost in, *through the green* and a ball is dropped *within two club lengths of the margin*, as near as possible to the spot where the ball lay, but not nearer to the hole,

If ball when dropped rolls into, and is re-dropped,

### Medal Play

### Match Play

None.

None.

None.

None.

# PENALTY, ETC.

PUTTING GREEN	Medal Play	Match Play
(NOTE.—The "Putting Green" is all ground, except hazards, within twenty yards of the hole.)		
Playing on, or on to, any of the putting greens before starting on the day of the competition,	Disqualification.	None.
(NOTE.—A local rule may, in the case of afternoon competitions, allow play on the course during the morning without penalty.)		
If a loose impediment on, (this includes <i>leaves</i> ) be <i>scraped aside with a club</i> ,	Two strokes.	Loss of hole.
(NOTE.—A loose impediment, except as below stated, must be lifted by hand.)		
Scraping aside with club dung, worm casts, snow or ice,	None.	None.
(NOTE.—Club must not be laid with more than its own weight upon the ground.)		

# PENALTY, ETC.

## PUTTING GREEN (Cont.)

If the line of putt be *touched* (except by placing the club immediately in front of the ball in the act of addressing it or to scrape aside with club dung, worm casts, snow or ice) or ground behind the hole be touched in order to point out the line of putt, by player or by his caddie,

If anything on, be *pressed down* either with club or in any other way,

If *casual water* intervenes between ball and hole, or ball is lying in casual water on, or it interferes with player's stance on, the ball may be lifted and *placed* as follows:

### Medal Play

### Match Play

Two strokes.

Loss of hole.

Two strokes.

Loss of hole.

None.

None.



# PENALTY, ETC.

PUTTING GREEN (Cont.)	Medal Play	Match Play
(1) Either within two lengths directly behind the spot from which the ball was lifted, or		
(2) In the nearest position to that spot which is not nearer to the hole and which affords a putt to the hole without casual water intervening,		
(NOTE.—Ice on the putting green is considered "casual water.")		
If his own ball be not holed out by competitor at every hole,	Disqualification.	_____
If player play a stroke on, with ball other than his own,	None. Ball must be replaced.	_____
If player play <i>two consecutive strokes</i> on, with ball other than his own,	Disqualification.	_____

# PENALTY, ETC.

PUTTING GREEN (Cont.)	Medal Play	Match Play
If player play when his opponent should have done so,	None. Ball cannot be re-placed.	None. Ball may be recalled by opponent.
If, when, both balls are on, player's ball <i>strike</i> that of his competitor,	One stroke. Competitor's ball must be replaced.	None. Opponent may, if he choose, replace his ball.
If competitor whose ball is the nearer to the hole lift his ball <i>while that of player is in motion</i> ,	One stroke.	Loss of hole.
When balls on, lie <i>within six inches</i> of each other,	Ball nearer to the hole may, at option of player or opponent, be lifted until other ball is played, and shall then be re-placed without penalty.	Same as in Medal Play.
If <i>mud</i> adhere to a ball lying on, If ball lying on, be <i>cleaned</i> , (NOTE.—If mud or other substance adhere to a ball it must be played as it is until holed out.)	Ball must be played as it is. Disqualification.	Same as in Medal Play. Loss of hole.

# PENALTY, ETC.

GENERAL	Medal Play	Match Play
In Medal Play a ball may be lifted <i>from any place on the course under penalty of two strokes,</i>	Two strokes.	_____
"If a player lift a ball in accordance with this rule, he shall tee and play a ball behind the place from which the ball was lifted; if this be impossible he shall tee and play a ball as near as possible to the place from which the ball was lifted, but not nearer to the hole."		
If competitor discontinue play or delay to start on account of <i>bad weather,</i>	Disqualification.	Loss of match.
If score for each hole be not kept by marker or by each competitor noting the other's score and a signed card handed in on completion of the stipulated round,	Disqualification for both players.	_____
(NOTE. — A caddie cannot be considered a "marker.")		

# PENALTY, ETC.

GENERAL (Cont.)	Medal Play	Match Play
If competitors (unless allowed by local rule) play other than in <i>couples</i> ,	Disqualification.	
Playing intentionally at any hole of the stipulated round within players' reach, before starting on on day of completion,	Disqualification.	None.
(NOTE.—A local rule may, in the case of afternoon competitions, allow play on the course during the morning without penalty.)		
If player ask for or willingly receive <i>advice</i> from anyone except his own caddie.	Disqualification.	Loss of hole.
(NOTE.—“Advice” is any counsel or suggestion which could influence a player in determining the line of play, in the choice of a club, or in the method of making a stroke.)		

GENERAL (Cont.)	Medal Play	Match Play
If <i>practice swing</i> be made through the green within club length of ball and in doing so anything fixed or growing is <i>moved, bent or broken</i> .	Two strokes.	Loss of hole.
If ball is <i>lost</i> (except in water, casual water or out of bounds),	One stroke and distance. Another ball must be teed as nearly as possible at spot from which lost ball was struck.	Loss of hole.
If competitor's ball strike or be stopped by himself, his clubs, golf bag or by his caddie,	One stroke.	Loss of hole.
If competitor's ball strike or be stopped by another competitor or by another competitor's caddie, clubs or golf bag,	None. Ball must be played from spot where it lies.	Opponent loses hole.

# PENALTY, ETC.

GENERAL (Cont.)	Medal Play	Match Play
If in <i>searching</i> for his ball a player or his caddie accidentally move it,	One stroke. Ball must be played as it lies.	Same as in medal Play.
If player or his caddie when searching for opponent's ball accidentally move it,	None. Ball must be replaced.	Same as in Medal Play.
If, when ball is in play, player or his caddie accidentally move his ball by touching it or by touching anything cause it to move.	One stroke. Ball must be played as it lies.	Same as in Medal Play.
If player <i>press</i> club on the ground instead of grounding it lightly,	Two strokes.	Loss of hole.
(NOTE.—The club must not be laid with more than its own weight on the ground.)		
If ball be pushed, scraped or spooned,	Two strokes.	Loss of hole.

# PENALTY, ETC.

GENERAL (Cont.)	Medal Play	Match Play
Touching <i>bushes, long grass</i> , or the like, more than necessary to find ball lying in them.	One stroke.	One stroke.
Removing loose impediment from through the green which is <i>more than a club length</i> from the ball,	Two strokes.	Loss of hole.
If <i>mud</i> adhere to a ball,	Ball must be played as it lies.	Same as in Medal Play.
If ball while in play be <i>cleaned</i> ,	Disqualification.	Loss of hole.
(NOTE.—If mud or other substance adhere to a ball it must be played as it is until holed out.)		
If ball be played <i>out of bounds</i> ,	The stroke must be counted and another ball <b>dropped</b> for next stroke as nearly as possible at spot from which ball was played out of bounds.	Same as in Medal Play.
(NOTE.—See also "Teeing-Ground.")		

# PENALTY, ETC.

GENERAL (Cont.)	Medal Play	Match Play
If ball lying <i>within twenty yards of the hole</i> is played and strikes either the flag-stick or the person standing at the hole,  (NOTE.—Neglect on the part of the person standing at the hole does not exempt the competitor from incurring the penalty.)	Two strokes.	Loss of hole by player whose caddie is standing at hole.
Lifting ball for <i>identification</i> and replacing it except in presence of competitor,	One stroke.	_____
Lifting ball for <i>identification</i> without consent of opponent,	_____	Loss of hole.
If competitor play through the green a stroke with ball other than his own,	None. Provided he then play his own ball.	_____



# PENALTY, ETC.

GENERAL (Cont.)	Medal Play	Match Play
If competitor play through the green <i>two consecutive strokes</i> with ball other than his own,  (NOTE.—A special rule applies when wrong ball is played in a hazard.)	Disqualification.	_____
If ball in play <i>move</i> after player has taken his stance but <i>before he has grounded his club to address it</i> ,  (NOTE.—For penalty in case of ball moving in a hazard after stance has been taken, see "Hazard.")	None.	None.
If ball in play <i>move</i> after player has grounded his club in act of addressing it,	Loss of hole.	One stroke.

# PENALTY, ETC.

GENERAL (Cont.)	Medal Play	Match Play
When balls lie <i>within a club length of each other</i> through the green,	Ball nearer the hole may, at option of player, or opponent, be lifted until other ball is played and shall then be replaced without penalty.	Same as in Medal Play.
If ball is not dropped in the manner provided for in Rule 8, viz.: by player facing the hole, <i>standing erect</i> , and dropping the ball behind him <i>over his shoulder</i> ,	Two strokes.	Loss of hole.
If ball crack or becomes unfit for play, (NOTE.—Mud adhering to a ball shall not be considered as making it unfit for play.)	Player may, without penalty, change ball on intimating to opponent his intention to do so.	Same as in Medal Play.
If ball split into separate pieces,	Another ball, may without penalty, be dropped where <b>any</b> piece lies.	Same as in Medal Play.











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